

ART 34 AMDT

CLAIMS

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1. An easy-to-open overcapping cover 1, which is  
(typically conical) comprising a head (5) and a skirt  
(4) of a film or sheet material, for a recipient or  
bottle of sparkling wine (2) sealed with a cork (8)  
5 with a head (80) with means for fastening the cork to  
the neck of said recipient, (typically a metal cork wire)  
(3) provided with a tightening wire (30) that goes  
under the glass ring (20) of the neck of said bottle  
and constitutes an opening twist or loop (31),  
10 comprising easy-to-open means provided on said skirt by  
two lines of weakness, characterized in that:

a) said easy-to-open means comprise at least one  
so-called line of weakness (44), described as being  
lower, located on the cover at a height H that defines  
15 a partition of said cover with a so-called upper part  
(10) and a so-called lower part (11), the height being  
such that after said cover and said recipient or sealed  
bottle have been assembled said line of weakness (44)  
breaks when said recipient or said bottle is first  
20 opened to provide access to said cork or possibly said  
cork wire once said upper part (10) has been removed,  
said lower part (11) remaining intact on the neck,

b) a so-called upper line of weakness (43) all or  
part of which is separated from the top of the so-  
called lower line by a distance L at least equal to 0.5  
25 H, H being the height between the so-called lower line  
and the upper or top end of said cover (1), upper (43)  
and lower (44) lines of weakness defining an opening  
strip 45 of width L the end of which constitutes a  
30 gripping tab (46),

c) the upper and lower ends of said gripping tab (46) are provided with notches or recesses (460, 461) intended to direct the tearing of tear strip (45) during said first opening such that when said recipient  
5 or bottle is opened for said first time said tear strip (45), which is created by pulling on gripping tab (46), removes the whole of said upper part (10) along with it.

2. Cover of claim 1 wherein so-called upper line  
10 of weakness (43) constitutes a partial line of weakness (430).

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3. Cover of either of claims 1 or 2 wherein gripping tab (46) is positioned according to a generating line of said cone and is located between two  
15 lines of weakness (43, 44) and fastened to said opening strip (45), said tab (46) using said notches (460, 461) to automatically direct the tearing strain when said cover is opened towards said two lines of weakness (43, 44) such that said cover is opened easily, ensuring the  
20 remaining lower part 11 of the cover located beneath said lower line (44) stays intact and said cork wire 3, if fitted, is freed.

4. Cover of any of claims 1 to 3 wherein said tab (46) comprises notches or recesses (460, 461) made in  
25 said film or sheet material constituting said cover.

5. Cover of any of claims 1 to 4 wherein width  $L_1$  of said tab (46) ranges from  $0.5 L$  to  $L$  with  $L$  ranging between 1.5 and 4 cm.

6. Cover of any of claims 1 to 5 wherein said  
30 lower part (11, 65) comprises a so-called lower reinforcement (67) reinforcement means that increases the mechanical properties of all or part of said lower part (11) and adheres to all or part of the inner

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surface of said lower part (11, 65) at least along said lower line of weakness (44) and parallel to said lower line of weakness, said lower reinforcement (67) may also comprise an adhesive layer over all or part of the surface that can be activated and that is intended to adhere to said neck.

7. Cover of claim 6 wherein the entire said lower reinforcement (67) comprises a layer that can be activated and constitutes a circular strip (68) the width of which is at least equal to 5 mm and that can extend over all or part of the height of said lower part (11) and that is adjacent to at least the upper edge of said lower part (11) along and parallel to said lower line of weakness (44).

8. Cover of either of claims 6 or 7 wherein all or part of the inner surface of said lower part (11) comprises a layer of glue or adhesive as fastening means that can be activated and that constitutes a bonded part 66 that adheres to said neck, typically after it has been activated.

9. Cover of claim 8 wherein said glue or adhesive comprises a complex layer consisting of a layer that adheres to the glass and a layer that adheres to the material comprising the inner surface of said cover, typically aluminum, paper or a layer of plastic material or varnish.

10. Cover of any of claims 1 to 9 wherein said upper part comprises a so-called upper reinforcement means (47) selected, particularly in terms of type and position on the inner surface of said upper part, to increase the mechanical properties of all or part of said upper part such that when said recipient or bottle is opened for said first time said opening strip (45),

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which is created by pulling on gripping tab (46), removes the whole of said upper part (10) along with it and to enable said upper line of weakness (43) to be removed by said upper reinforcement means.

5        11. Cover of claim 10 wherein said upper reinforcement means (47) comprise a lateral end (472) that reinforces all or part of said gripping tab (46).

12. Cover of claim 11 wherein said lateral end (472) extends beyond said gripping tab such that said  
10 lateral end (472) assumes the role of said gripping tab when the cover is first opened.

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13. Cover of any of claims 10 to 12 wherein said upper reinforcement means (47) comprise a reinforcement strip or line that includes a lower part or edge (471)  
15 adjacent to lower line of weakness (44).

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14. Cover of claim 13 wherein said reinforcement means (47) comprise an upper part or edge (470) that may or may not belong to the same reinforcement strip or line, said upper (470) and lower edges (471) being  
20 separated by a width L, that is constant or otherwise depending on angular position  $\alpha$ , width L ranging typically between 0.4 and 4 cm, average width L being preferably between 0.3 and 0.7 times H, H being the height between the so-called lower line and the upper  
25 end or top of said cover (1).

15. Cover of claim 14 wherein width L is not constant and increases, typically regularly, with the angular position  $\alpha$ , width L being at its smallest at said tab (46) where angle  $\alpha$  is equal to 0.

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16. Cover of any of claims 10 to 15 wherein said upper reinforcement means (47) cover the entire interior surface or inner periphery of the free part of said opening strip (45).

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- said additional means are provided, being  
30 selected from said upper line of weakness (43), said  
upper reinforcement means (47, 48), said lower  
reinforcement means (67), said means (66) for fastening  
all or part of lower part (11) to the neck,

- a radial line of heat- or pressure-activated adhesive (63) may be applied, typically on the other axial edge (61) of said arc, except on the matching part or opposite said tab (46),

5        - said arc (6) is rolled on a chuck by folding axial edge (60) back onto the other axial edge (61), a line of adhesive is applied between the two edges, or said pre-applied radial line of adhesive is activated, to shape said skirt (4) by pressing edges (60,61)  
10 together and possibly creating said grooves (9), and a head (5) is assembled or created, possibly by adding a part of the head and fastening it typically by thermobonding to upper rim (64) of said skirt that is possibly shrunk and folded.

15        21. Method of claim 20 wherein the upper or lower reinforcement can be deposited either by bonding a strip or part of a strip according to the mechanical characteristics required, which are typically  
20 is typically part of an annular sector, or by using a gun to apply a strip or line of melted plastic material that is adherent and that hardens when applied.

22. Method of claim 21 wherein said upper and lower reinforcement means are a self-adhesive label of  
25 suitable shape applied to said arc (6).

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